

REMARKS

Claims 21-48 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the Claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

At page 2, the Office Action rejects Claims 21 and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Vathulya et al. (6297524). According to the Office Action, Fig. 3 of Vathulya shows a top wall of the elevation portion covered by an insulating layer, as recited in independent Claims 21, 38, and 48.

The Assignee respectfully submits that Vathulya does not disclose these features. In Vathulya, the elevation portion 32 is covered by layer L4, which is an electrically conductive ring-shaped line 25, not an insulating layer. Accordingly, the Assignee submits that Vathulya does not anticipate independent Claims 21, 38, and 48. As such, the Assignee respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) against Claims 21, 38, and 48, and also dependent Claims 22-37 and 39-47 as they depend from Claims 21 and 38, respectively.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

At page 7, the Office Action rejects Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vathulya et al. (6297524).

Claim 22 depends on Claim 21, which for the reasons argued above should be allowed. Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) against Claim 21.

Conclusion

The Assignee believes the claims, as presently amended, adequately address the rejections in the office action. Accordingly, issuance of the patent is respectfully requested. Should the examiner deem a telephone conference to be of assistance in advancing the application to issuance, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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